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National Leaders Enthuse Attendees at “Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2012”

- Annual conference marks another active year for Florida Medical Directors Association

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) recently hosted its 21st annual conference which gathered more than 300 long-term care (LTC) practitioners and industry representatives at Walt Disney World’s Dolphin Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

The conference was very well attended and its success resonated throughout attendees and exhibitors who were present. The focus of this year’s educational programming was on acute emergencies in the long-term care setting. Aside from learning in the classroom, attendees were given a chance to network with their peers and to meet with more than 30 exhibitors during the annual trade show.

A featured session of the conference included the annual national leaders’ forum which focused on future directions and forging new partnerships in long-term care and geriatrics. On hand to represent the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) was its president, Dr. Matthew Wayne. The National Association Directors of Nursing Administration (NADONA) was represented by its president, Robin Arnicar, and able to join us by video, from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid in Baltimore, MD, Dr. Alice Bonner. Each leader offered insightful perspective into their respective organizations and looked closely at upcoming challenges that are faced by practitioners working in the industry. The leaders spent a large portion of their time answering difficult questions from the audience on the most pressing issues, while FMDA President Dr. John Symeonides served as moderator.

Dr. Symeonides was honored to have these prominent leaders speak at the conference, “It is extremely important that the entire continuum of long-term care and the interdisciplinary team keep the lines of communication open between our respective fields as well as with the frontline caregivers so that we can continue to provide the highest quality of care to our patients.”

“FMDA is extremely proud of the success that the Best Care Practices conference has enjoyed and is honored to be recognized as one of the premier providers of education and networking opportunities in the country,” he added.

During the Annual Awards Luncheon, FMDA announced winners of the 2012 Poster Presentation Awards. There were two categories this year for posters – Case & Study (Research). This year’s 1st place winner of the Case category was Dr. Elizabeth Hames, a geriatric fellow from Broward General Medical Center. Her case, as portrayed in her poster presentation, dealt with the examination of an 82 year-old with Tinnitus, a pre-cursor to Neurosyphilis. The Study category recognized two winners. In 2nd place was Dr. Sweta Tewary, a Project Coordinator from Nova Southeastern University, with a poster examining foot problems in nursing homes. The 1st place winner in the Study category was Dr. Simone Minto-Pennant, a pharmacist at VA Medical Center in Orlando. Her study focused on medication error reporting in long-term care.

Plans for FMDA’s 22nd annual conference are already underway. Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2013 will be returning to *Disney’s Contemporary* Resort, October 17-20, 2013.

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Started in 1990, the Florida Medical Directors Association is the official state chapter of the American Medical Directors Association and is a Specialty Society of the Florida Medical Association. It is based in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The FMDA represents more than 325 medical directors, attending physicians, physician assistants, and advanced registered nurse practitioners in Florida's postacute care continuum, including subacute care, hospice, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, as well as in continuing-care retirement communities.

The mission of FMDA is to promote the highest-quality care in the postacute continuum by providing leadership, professional education, and advocacy.